

# **Fairbanks Landing Fish and Wildlife Area**

## **Proposed Wildlife Management Plan 2/05**

### **Overall Property Management**

The overall management of the Fairbanks Landing Fish and Wildlife Area will be assigned to personnel currently stationed at the Minnehaha Fish and Wildlife Area. Funding and manpower resources are concerns for the property as the management plan is developed. The management style for the property will be passive in nature and will rely on partnerships with private conservation organizations (such as QU, NWTF, DU, etc) and other interested sportsman groups and individuals to deliver habitat features on the ground. Hunting activities will be managed to provide high quality experiences. The Management Plan will be divided into the following areas for organizational purposes: Upland Management, Bottomland Management, Woodland Management, and Hunter Management.

### **Upland Management**

- enroll 200 plus acres into the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) CP-33 habitat buffers program to develop 30 to 120 foot field borders consisting of warm and cool season grasses and shrubs to benefit game birds
- encourage partners to participate in this effort to develop the border plantings
- purchase standing crops in tenant fields to provide a food source for wildlife
- encourage no-till farming practices

### **Bottomland Management**

- encourage the enrollment of additional acreage into the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) in the Wabash bottoms area
- reduce or eliminate fall tillage of bottomland fields to allow residual grain to be utilized by wildlife
- consider installation of wood duck nest boxes

### **Woodland Management**

- encourage Best Management Practices during timber harvest on the property
- encourage brushpile construction, grass-legume seeding of all log landings and temporary roads used in the timber harvest, and the retention of cavity (den) trees where possible

### **Hunter Management**

- utilize a self-service and drop box check-in system for small game, waterfowl, and archery and muzzleloader deer seasons
- continue to impose the four (4) bird daily bag limit for bobwhite quail
- utilize a deer gun pre-season draw to select hunters for two 2-day hunts as hunting pressure demands during the opening and second week-end of the season
  - a) the daily quota for deer gun hunts would be 200 hunters
  - b) hunters would register for the drawing at the Minnehaha Fish and Wildlife Area check station during the October deer archery season
  - c) the drawing would occur in early November to select hunters
  - d) bonus county (doe) permits would not be utilized on the property at this time
  - e) the remainder of the deer gun season would be self-service check-in
- utilize a pre-season draw to select hunters for the spring turkey season
  - a) the daily hunter quota would be 15
  - b) for the 2005 season, hunters would complete a postcard and mail to the Minnehaha Fish and Wildlife Area to enter the drawing
  - c) applicants will be notified whether they were successful or not
  - d) two 3-day hunts would be offered
  - e) after the 2005 season, the same draw procedure as currently used for other fish and wildlife areas would be used
  - f) for both the 2005 season and the following seasons, a self-service check-in would be utilized after the pre-season drawing days with the same 15 hunter daily quota